

## AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Amend the paragraph on page 8, lines 22-24 as follows:

One particular recombinant nucleotide sequence of the invention is characterized in that the coding concatenation of nucleotides coding for the maize  $\gamma$ -zein which it contains has the sequence as defined in SEQ ID NO:6~~shown in Figure 9~~.

Amend the paragraphs on page 8, line 29, through page 9, line 9, as follows:

In a preferred embodiment of the invention, in the recombinant nucleotide sequence comprising a concatenation coding for maize  $\gamma$ -zein, the oligonucleotide of the invention is inserted in place of the concatenation coding for the Pro-X domain naturally present in the maize  $\gamma$ -zein amino acid sequence or following this concatenation. The Pro-X domain of the maize  $\gamma$ -zen amino acid sequence is constituted by the amino acids located between positions 70 and 91 of the amino acid sequence as defined in SEQ ID NO:7~~shown in Figure 9~~, corresponding to nucleotides 265 to 330 of the sequence as defined in SEQ ID NO:6~~shown in Figure 9~~.

Preferably, in the nucleotide sequence of the invention, the oligonucleotide in place of or following the Pro-X domain is present between nucleotides 276 and 357 of the sequence as defined in SEQ ID NO:6~~shown in Figure 9~~.

Amend the paragraph on page 12, lines 3-5 as follows:

The P20 $\gamma$ Z proteins shown in Figure 11 (SEQ ID NO:11) or H30 $\gamma$ Z or H45 $\gamma$ Z shown in Figure 10 (SEQ ID NO:9) are preferred embodiments of the invention and represent lysine-enriched modified maize  $\gamma$ -zeins.

Amend the paragraphs on page 16, lines 20-29 as follows:

**Figure 9** – Coding sequence of maize  $\gamma$ -zein cDNA (SEQ ID NO: 6) and the corresponding amino acid sequence (SEQ ID NO: 7).

**Figure 10** – Coding sequence of cDNA of the of the H45 $\gamma$ Z maize zein (SEQ ID NO:8) and the corresponding amino acid sequence (SEQ ID NO:9).

The lysine-rich sequence (28 amino acids) was introduced between amino acid residues 92 and 119 of the sequence shown in Figure 10 (SEQ ID NO:9).

**Figure 11** – Coding sequence of cDNA of the P20 $\gamma$ Z maize zein (SEQ ID NO:10) and the corresponding amino acid sequence (SEQ ID NO:11).

The lysine-rich sequence (14 amino acids) was introduced between amino acid residues 92 and 119 of the sequence shown in Figure 11 (SEQ ID NO:11).